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Reports

[Item#1](#)

Foreign Assistance to North Korea. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark E. Manyin and Mary Beth D. Nikitin. April 2, 2014.

Large swathes of North Korea's population have suffered from chronic malnutrition since the mid-1990s. Food aid, largely from China, South Korea, and the United States, has been essential in filling the gap between North Korea's supply and demand, though since 2009 donations from all countries except China have dwindled to a minimal amount. Observers and activists attribute the North Korea's

malnutrition and occasional starvation problems to food shortages, which at times have been massive, and more fundamentally to the unequal distribution of food caused in large measure by the North Korean government's deliberate decisions and policies. In 2013, an improved harvest appeared to reduce North Korea's chronic grain shortfall to some of the lowest levels since the 1990s. Yet outside food groups reported continued malnutrition among vulnerable sectors of the population, especially children. In 2014, a United Nations Commission of Inquiry on North Korea's human rights conditions found that the North Korean government's "act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation" amounted to crimes against humanity.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R40095.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages, 418.53 KB].

Item#2

Reaching Nuclear Threshold, Iran May Be Ready for Pause. YaleGlobal. Arch Roberts. April 10, 2014.

Iran possesses the technology to enrich uranium that could lead to production of nuclear weapons, putting the country in a class with 14 nations including Germany and Japan. Perhaps that was the nation's goal all along. "It's possible that a pause in Iran's nuclear program has become desirable and convenient in the face of the sanctions that undermine the economy and the regime, especially given the expansion of spinning centrifuges," writes Arch Roberts. "Tehran may have concluded there's little downside risk in hitting a reset button with the big powers." An interim agreement that requires inspections, reports and verification is strong. But if permanent agreement is not reached on reducing nuclear stockpiles and arranging more inspections by the July 20 deadline, the actual know-how gained won't be forgotten, Roberts warns. After achieving a certain level of nuclear capability, Iran can press a pause button on its program to focus on economic challenges and develop a better relationship with the international community.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/having-achieved-high-enough-nuclear-technology-iran-may-be-ready-pause> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Indians Reflect on Their Country & the World. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. March 31, 2014.

According to the survey, Indians are disgruntled about the state of their nation, deeply worried about a range of problems facing their society and supportive of new leadership in New Delhi. However, despite a faltering economy, they remain fairly upbeat about their personal finances and hopeful about the economic prospects of both India and the next generation. Notwithstanding recent high-profile official frictions with the United States, the Indian public has a generally positive view of America. Meanwhile, Indians are divided in their opinions about the world's rising superpower: China. And they remain deeply wary of Pakistan, although they would like to see Indo-Pakistani relations improve.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/03/Pew_Research_Center_Global_Attitudes_Project_India_Full_Release_FINAL_March_31_2014.pdf [PDF format, 35 pages, 470.82 KB].

Item#4

Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jim Zanotti. March 27, 2014.

The record of U.S.-Turkey cooperation during the Obama Administration has been mixed. To some extent it mirrors the complexities that past U.S. administrations faced with Turkey in reconciling bilateral alignment on general foreign policy objectives with substantive points of disagreement involving countries such as Greece, Cyprus, Armenia, and Iraq. Patterns in the U.S.-Turkey bilateral relationship indicate that both countries seek to minimize damage resulting from disagreements. However, these patterns also suggest that periodic fluctuations in how the two countries' interests converge may persist. It is unclear how this dynamic might affect the extent to which future U.S. approaches to regional issues involve Turkey, or might affect the countries' efforts to increase closeness in other facets of their political and economic relationship.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41368.pdf> [PDF format, 65 pages, 893.42 KB].

Item#5

Reform of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Courts: Introducing a Public Advocate. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Andrew Nolan et al. March 21, 2014.

Recent revelations about the size and scope of government foreign surveillance efforts have prompted some to criticize the level of scrutiny that the courts--established under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA)--currently provide with respect to the government's applications to engage in such surveillance. In response to concerns that the ex parte nature of many of the proceedings before the FISA courts prevents an adequate review of the government's legal positions, some have proposed establishing an office led by an attorney or "public advocate" who would represent the civil liberties interests of the general public and oppose the government's applications for foreign surveillance. The concept of a public advocate is a novel one for the American legal system, and, consequently the proposal raises several difficult questions of constitutional law.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/R43260.pdf> [PDF format, 55 pages, 639.93 KB].

Item#6

More Republicans See Health Care Stance as 'Very Important' to Midterm Vote. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. April 10, 2014.

In looking ahead to this fall's elections, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to view a candidate's position on the Affordable Care Act as very important to their vote. The survey finds that 64% of Republican registered voters say a candidate's stance on the health care law will be very important in their voting decision, compared with 52% of Democrats and 45% of independents.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/4-10-14%20Health%20Care%20release.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 580.58 KB].

Item#7

Shrinking Majority of Americans Support Death Penalty. Pew Research Religion & Public Life Project. March 28, 2014.

According to a 2013 Pew Research Center survey, 55% of U.S. adults say they favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. A significant minority (37%) oppose the practice. While a majority of U.S. adults still support the death penalty, public opinion in favor of capital punishment has seen a modest decline since November 2011, the last time Pew Research asked the question. In 2011, fully six-in-ten U.S. adults (62%) favored the death penalty for murder convictions, and 31% opposed it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/03/Death-Penalty_03-27-14_final.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages, 234].

Item#8

The Effectiveness of China's Industrial Policies in Commercial Aviation Manufacturing. RAND Corporation. Keith Crane et al. April 4, 2014.

The report explores the emerging commercial aviation manufacturing industry in China to examine the effectiveness of the policies and mechanisms the Chinese government has used to create "national champions;" evaluate the effectiveness of the steps taken by foreign manufacturers to prevent transfers of key technologies to potential future Chinese competitors when setting up manufacturing facilities in China; provide policy options that allow foreign governments to effectively respond to Chinese industrial policies; and alert Chinese policymakers to the downsides of China's current industrial policies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR200/RR245/RAND_RR245.pdf [PDF format, 114 pages, 1,005.8 KB].

Item#9

Women's Work: The Economic Mobility of Women Across a Generation. The Pew Charitable Trusts. April 2014.

The study demonstrates that women's increased labor force participation and earnings have enabled some families to maintain their places on the economic ladder or, particularly among families at the bottom, to move up.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS/Content-Level_Pages/Reports/2014/Womens-Work-Report-Economic-Mobility-Across-a-Generation.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages, 3.78 MB].

Item#10

PakVotes: A Social Media Experiment in Elections Monitoring. U.S. Institute of Peace. Web posted April 14, 2014.

PakVotes, an experimental project run by a Pakistani NGO and supported by USIP, brought social media platforms together with a network of reporters to track violence during Pakistan's 2013 elections. The experience offers lessons for the future use of social media to publicize conflicts and violence during elections and other major events.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB171-PakVotes-A-Social-Media-Experiment-in-Elections-Monitoring.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages, 286.14 KB].